

REMARKS

In the Office Communication mailed August 17, 2009 as entered in the above-captioned matter, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing certain elements of claim 1. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Braun (U.S. Patent No. 6,050,940) ("Braun") in view of Drakulic (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,559) ("Drakulic"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Braun in view of Gudaitis (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,784) ("Gudaitis"). The applicant respectfully traverses these objections and rejections and requests reconsideration.

Objections to the drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing certain elements of claim 1; in particular, "at least two signal inputs" and "a high-pass filtered version of the resultant error-corrected signal."

First, the applicant notes with all due respect that claim 1 is a method claim. As such, there is no specific requirement for any drawing whatsoever notwithstanding 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Note, for example, M.P.E.P. 608.02(III) which specifically provides for not withholding a filing date merely because an application containing a method claim does not also include a single drawing.

Second, and again with all due respect, the applicant notes that the elements in question do, in fact, appear in the drawings. Consider for example FIG. 2 (reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner). At the upper left this drawing clearly depicts the two signal inputs. And the gated integrator (denoted as 26 in this figure) provides the high-pass filtered version of the resultant error-corrected signal via the nodes denoted as "A" and "B" back to the front end of the differential gain stage (denoted as 20 in this figure).

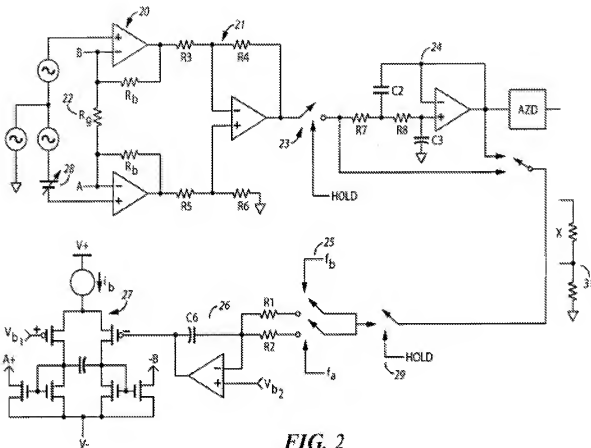


FIG. 2

Accordingly, although specific support in the drawings is not required for claim 1, we respectfully submit that such support is nevertheless present in the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Braun in view of Drakulic and claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Braun in view of Gudaitis.

Claim 1

The Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to modify Braun to include Drakulic's sequential provision of a signal through a differential amplifier and a high-pass filter in order to

eliminate the DC component of the signal being introduced into the high-pass filter. This suggestion fails to consider, however, that Braun already attends to the presence of the DC component (albeit subsequent to the high-pass filtering). One skilled in the art would understand that Braun's circuit therefore already attends to this concern and does not require further alterations in these regards.

Given that Braun already attends to the elimination of the DC component, one skilled in the art would also understand that further changes and alterations would necessarily follow if one sought to combine this aspect of Drakulik with Braun in that Braun's present approach to dealing with the DC component would need to be excised. The Examiner has not, however, suggested how such a combination of teachings might in fact be carried out in view of such circumstances.

Beyond this, and in the interests of expedited prosecution, we have amended claim 1 to now further specify that a gated integrator is used to high-pass filter the amplified resultant error-corrected signal to provide the high-pass filtered version of the resultant error-corrected signal. Accordingly, no combination of Braun with Drakulik, regardless of how obvious or unobvious that combination might be, will equal such a recitation.

Claims 3-6 and 10-12

These claims are ultimately dependent upon claim 1, which claim is shown above to be allowable. While the applicant believes that other arguments are available to highlight the allowable subject matter presented in various ones of these dependent claims, the applicant also believes that the comments set forth herein regarding allowability of the independent claims are sufficiently compelling to warrant present exclusion of such additional points for the sake of brevity and expedited consideration.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/656,914
Amendment B and Response to Office Action dated January 19, 2010
Office Action of August 17, 2009


Attorney Docket No. 7595/79330

Conclusion

There being no other objections to or rejections of the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-6, and 10-12 may be passed to issuance. If the Examiner should have any other points of concern, the Examiner is expressly invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss those concerns and to seek an amicable resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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